

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent
The Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 19th, 2021**

The Liturgy of the Word

Choral Introit

All stand as are able

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Lord, my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all people – a light to bring light to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel. (Luke 2:30-32)

Dear God, let the glorious light of Jesus' love shine in our lives and proclaim the Good Tidings to everyone we meet. Amen.

Processional Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come Emmanuel

And ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lonely exile here

Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Wisdom from on high

Who orderest all things mightily;

To us the path of knowledge show,

And teach us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nation bind

In one the hearts of humankind

Bid thou our sad divisions cease,

And be thyself our King of Peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

Lord Jesus Christ, Your Light Shines Within Us

Jacques Berthier

Lord Jesus Christ, your Light shines within us.

Let not my doubts nor my darkness speak to me.

Lord Jesus Christ, your Light shines within us.

Let my heart always welcome your love. (sung 3x)

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Canticle 15 The Magnificat sung by the Choir John Rutter

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed; the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.

Second Lesson read by Geoff Kurtz

A reading from Paul's letter to the Hebrews.

When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

After the reading

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand for the Gospel procession and reading

Sequence Hymn: Signs of Ending All Around Us

Speak, O God, your Word among us. Barren lives your presence fill.

Swell our hearts with songs of gladness, terrors calm forebodings still.

Let your promised realm of justice blossom new throughout the earth;

Your dominion bring now near us; we await the saving birth.

The Holy Gospel

Before the Gospel

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Pageant

A search for the lessons of the Christmas season in the everyday lives of the youth of Holy Apostles, created from their time together this fall. With "The Twelve Themes of Christmas" and "Go Tell It On the Mountain." Performed by George Norman, Natty Norman, John Harvey, Tug Pastore, Halcy Pasternak, Connor Moritz, Harper Landau, Beckett Landau, Charlie Kooperkamp-Lopez, Olivia Rohde, Ellie Rohde and Ginger Kurtz.

Please stand and say together

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from The Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

led by Carol Oliver

God of mystery and miracles,
Your Word brings light into the dark places of our lives;
Your presence gives us strength to endure
when we are pushed beyond our own strength.

You find us in our lostness and,
with love beyond our imagining,
you lead us home.

All this you offer in and through Jesus Christ.
Yet, we resist you.
We resist loosening our tight grip on our lives.
We hesitate to trust you
for you may lead us where we do not want to go.

You know the places in our hearts
and in our minds
where we are well-defended
against your intrusions.

In this season of longing, of awaiting, of looming darkness and coming joy,
grant us grace to bring all that we are to you, O Christ
— all the broken places
— all the lost wanderings
— all the weariness from trying to live lives that are pleasing to you.

Grant us grace to overcome our own weariness to respond with generosity and love to our
neighbors:

Our neighbors we know, and those whose names we will never know;
Our neighbors who are hungry or homeless;
Our neighbors who are suffering from mental illness or addiction;
Our neighbors who are dying or sick;
Our neighbors who are lonely or grieving;
Our neighbors at PS 15.

Hold us all in the fullness of your love.
Then, be born in us,
that we may find our home,
our life,
our joy
in You, Lord of light and love.
Dear people of God I invite you to offer your prayers and thanksgivings.

You are invited to speak your intercessions aloud or to type them in the chat.

The Confession of Sin & Absolution

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor:

All **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen**

The Absolution

The Peace

Presider The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you!**

The Holy Communion

This is God's Table: all are welcome

Offertory Anthem

Please stand

Doxology

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with

Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Presider and People sing together,

The Sanctus LEVAS II 255 (*Mass for a Soulful People*)

Grayson Warren Brown

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are filled with your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, of the Lord.

Hosanna, in the highest, hosanna in the highest

The Presider continues,

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People,

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues,

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer LEVAS II 264

A.H. Malotte

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed by thy name,

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Please remain standing and sing together

Fraction Anthem

S. Shull

**We who are many, are one body,
For we all share in the one bread,
we all share in the one bread.**

Please remain standing

Invitation to Communion

These are the gifts for God for all of us, the people of God. Let us take them in remembrance that Christ died for us and feed on him in our hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Anthem L-154 Taste and See

James E. Moore, Jr

[Refrain] Taste and see. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

O Taste and see. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times. God's praise shall always be on my lips; my soul shall glory in the Lord; for God has been so good to me.
2. Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us all praise God's name. I called the Lord and God answered me; from all my troubles God set me free.
3. Worship the Lord all you people. You'll want for nothing if you ask. Taste and see that God is good; in God we need put all our trust.

All stand, and say together

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn: Tell Out, My Soul

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word; in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might! Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight, the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word! Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure. Tell out,
my soul, the greatness of the Lord to children's children and for evermore.**

Holiday Singlong All I Want for Christmas is You

Please join the choir after the solo!

**I don't want a lot for Christmas, there is just one thing I need
Don't care about the presents underneath the Christmas tree
I don't need to hang my stocking there upon the fireplace
Santa Claus won't make me happy with a toy on Christmas Day
I just want you for my own, more than you could ever know
Make my wish come true, all I want for Christmas is you**

**Oh, I won't ask for much this Christmas, I won't even wish for snow
I'm just gonna keep on waiting underneath the mistletoe
I won't make a list and send it to the North Pole for Saint Nick
I won't even stay awake to hear those magic reindeer click
"Cause I just want you here tonight, holding on to me so tight
What more can I do? Oh, baby, all I want for Christmas is you**

Jingle Bells

**Dashing through the snow on a one horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go, laughing all the way
Bells on bob tail ring, making spirits bright
What fun it is to laugh and sing a sleighing song tonight**

**Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way,
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh**

**A day or two ago, I thought I'd take a ride
And soon Miss Fanny Bright was seated by my side;
The horse was lean and lank, misfortune seemed his lot
We got into a drifted bank, and then we got upsot, [refrain]**

**Now the ground is white, go it while you're young
Take the girls tonight and sing this sleighing song
Just get a bob tailed bay, two-forty as his speed
Hitch him to an open sleigh and crack! You'll take the lead [refrain]**

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!**